

Distribution of foodgrains through PDS for BPL card holders

*165. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce the issue price of foodgrains distributed through PDS for BPL card holders;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details regarding the off take of BPL card holders; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase the off take of the BPL card holders?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The off take of wheat and rice under TPDS in respect of BPL families during the last three years was as under:-

Year	Rice	(In lakh tonnes) Wheat
1998-99	33.49	26.22
1999-2000	39.76	30.18
2000-2001	58.93	36.63

(d) Various measures have been taken to increase the off take in respect of BPL families. The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families was increased from 10 kgs. per family per month to 20 kgs. per family per month with effect from April, 2000. This has been further enhanced to 25 kgs. per family per month with effect from July, 2001. The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families is being made with effect from December, 2000 on the basis of the population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of the

projects population of 1995, thus bringing more families under BPL category. Further, in order to provide food security to about one crore poorest of the poor families, the Government has launched Antyodaya Anna Yojana under which each eligible family is entitled to receive 25 kgs. of foodgrains per month at highly subsidised rates— Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice.

Software Export Trade Institutions

†*166. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been encouraging setting up of software export trade institutions in the country over the past years; and

(b) if so, the number of such institutions which were registered during 1998-99 and 2000-01, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 21 Software Technology Parks (STP) in the country, where software exports units have been established over the years. In all, 375 units in 1998-99 and 1007 units during 2000-01 were registered in the country. A total of 6652 STP units have so far been registered till 2000-01. The State-wise number of STP units registered during 1998-99 and 2000-01, is given in the Statement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.